

With compliments 

Rothbury
Urban District Council.

Report
OF THE
Medical Officer
FOR THE
Year ending, December 31st, 1905.

Rothbury :

N. SNAITH, PRINTER AND STATIONER.



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ROTHBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER

— FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1905. —

ROTHBURY,

January 29th, 1906.

TO THE ROTHBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Allow me to present you with this my Tenth Annual Report, it being for the year ended 31st December, 1905.

The number of Births registered during the year was 28, of which 14 were males and 14 females. Estimating the population at 1,330, this is at a rate of 21·0 per 1,000, and about your average previously of 22·0. That for England and Wales (smaller Urban) was 26·9 for 1905. During the first quarter, 5 were registered, 9 during the second, 6 during the third, and 8 during the last.

The number of Deaths registered was 18, and this is at a rate of 13·53 per 1,000 per annum, and is very satisfactory. That for England and Wales is 14·4. Your previous average was 16·3, this being a decided improvement. Of these 18, eleven were males and 7 females. During January there were no deaths; February, 2; March, 0; April, 4; May, 2; June, 2; July, 0; August, 1; September, 3; October, 0; November, 2; December, 2.

As there were 28 births during the year and 18 deaths, it follows that the difference of 10 was naturally added to the population, which is at a rate of 7·5. Last year there was a diminution, so this is a great improvement. That for England and Wales is about 12·0.

Of these deaths, 3 were under one year of age when they died, and hence in infancy. As there were 28 births and three of these died, this gives an infantile death rate of 107·14 on each 1,000 born. That for England and Wales is 132·0, and your previous average 105·0. The causes of these were : Premature Birth, 1 ; Debility at Birth, 1 ; and Bronchitis, 1.

The following were the groups of ages at which the deaths took place : under one year, 3 ; five and under fifteen, 1 ; fifteen to twenty-five, 1 ; twenty-five to sixty-five, 5 ; and above that age, 7. Of these latter, a female was aged 82 years, five others were over 70, and one more over 65.

There were no deaths due to any of the seven chief Epidemic diseases, but two were due to Influenza.

Other causes of death were as follows : Cancer, 1 ; Phthisis, 0 ; Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 3, being at a rate of 2·3 for diseases of the chest other than Phthisis ; Premature Birth, 1 ; Heart Disease, 7 (the same as last year), the ravages of Influenza upon the constitution accounted for several of these ; Accident, 1 ; Debility at birth, 1 ; and Senile Decay, 2. The accident was caused by an engine running over a male at the Fontburn works, who belonged to Rothbury. An inquest being held.

There were only four cases of Infectious disease notified, as against seven and twenty-three of the two previous years. Of these, 3 were Erysipelas, and 1 Scarlet Fever. This latter occurred in a young woman at the Station Hotel on July 23rd. Trippers had been in the house getting their teas, and doubtless some of them had carried the infection. There were no unsanitary conditions. Isolation and disinfection were used, and it did not spread.

Influenza was decidedly in evidence throughout the year, and it caused two of the deaths. I am afraid that people will forget that it is very infectious.

There were no deaths among strangers in the district.

There were no proceedings before the Magistrates.

The Hospital for Infectious Diseases was not used during the year.

Under the Workshops Act, I examined the premises of two dress-makers and one tailor, finding all satisfactory.

The plans having been laid before the Board and being passed, the following new houses, with sanitary arrangements, have been built in compliance with the same, viz. : new Bank premises in High Street, new Post Office in Bridge Street, one at the foot of the town (Mr. Shotton's). Mr. Kidd's, close to this, practically re-built, and Mr. Shell's, in the back of Bridge Street.

Better drainage has been provided at the Blue House and the Railway Hotel with outbuildings

The water supply has been laid on to the new Workhouse, and this is at last occupied.

The Thrum road has been better protected with an iron railing since the fatal accident. The Providence Lane and Malting Yard drains have each been blocked up and opened out. Both require re-laying, the former in sanitary pipes. This is being postponed until the sewage question is settled.

The sewage question has been several times carefully discussed and meetings held on the spot, and it is now hoped that the Duke of Northumberland will be willing to grant a site selected on the south side of the river, near the Little Mill. Negotiations are in progress, which is hoped will be successful.

I have inspected the Slaughter houses at intervals, and find all clean and tidy.

Messrs. Watt and Nesbitt have both made alterations to their houses, considerably altering the original plans to their sanitary detriment. They have been requested to send in amended plans shewing the alterations.

Your Inspector (Mr. Davison) has periodically gone over the district, reporting monthly to the Board. As a result, six notices to abate nuisances were served, with satisfactory results.

I am indebted to Mr. Bertram, of *Cragside*, for the following Table of Rainfall for the year.

JANUARY ...	...	...	...	0·57 inches.
FEBRUARY	...	...	...	1·20 „
MARCH ...	...	...	...	2·18 „
APRIL ...	...	...	...	3 23 „
MAY ...	...	...	...	1·05 „
JUNE ...	...	...	...	1·21 „
JULY ...	...	...	...	0·68 „
AUGUST ...	...	...	...	4·94 „
SEPTEMBER	...	...	...	2·24 „
OCTOBER ...	...	...	...	4·31 „
NOVEMBER	...	...	...	6·88 „
DECEMBER	...	...	...	·89 „
TOTAL ...				<hr/> 29·38 <hr/>

Thus, in all 29·38 inches of rain fell, as against 25·25 last year ; the average being about 34·0 inches. There were about 157 wet days, in which over 0·01 inches fell, as against 155 of the year before ; and the hours of sunshine were 1,543, as against 1,430 the previous year.

Your obedient servant,

F. B A R R O W,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In the Rothbury (Urban) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under 1 Year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*			Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1891	1192			District formed in 1896.							
1896	1250	24	19·2	2	83·3	15	12·0	1		13	10·3
1897	1260	39	30 0	5	128 0	23	18·2	1	1	22	17·4
1898	1270	33	26·0	2	60·6	26	20·5	3	1	25	19·7
1899	1280	21	16·4	2	95·2	22	17·2	1		17	13·3
1900	1290	37	30·8	4	103·1	29	22·5	3	1	27	21·0
1901	1300	27	20·8	4	148·1	26	20·0			25	19·2
1902	1310	16	12 2	.		26	19·9	4	3	19	14·5
1903	1310	35	26·7	3	85·7	22	16·8	4	2	19	14·5
1904	1320	22	16·9	3	115·4	26	20·0	3	1	24	18·46
Averages for years 1895-1904.	1300	29	22·3	3	103·5	23	17·7	2	1	20	15·4
1905	1330	28	21·05	3	107·14	18	13·53	1		18	13·53

* Rates in columns 4, 6, 8, and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ...	...	948
Total Population at all ages ...	...	1,303
Number of inhabited houses ...	...	293
Average number of persons per house ...	...	4·5

